Dell's first

Dear Dave, 11/8/93

Lil is retyping and when we leave to keep a dental appointment I'll send certified, return receipt requested, another notice that they plan to violate the agreeement I have with Gallen, not with C & G. I'll enclose that and a letter I wrote Gallen I think Sunday morning. What was not in your mind then is that I have only a verbal agreeement with Gallen other than a letter of long ago saying that he would publish NEVER AGAIN! I have only a verbal agreement on publishing HOAX, with both.

If those crooks can get away with this theft they'll for all practical purposes see to it that none of my books get any distribution, that only theirs, which will be in the stores, will, and that in the end, for all practical purposes, they will own all I've published.

Notice that I have not even suggested that I'll withdraw the two new books. We'll see if they take any steps that way. But I also have to worry, with this demonstration, what they will be capable of with the two new books. Or if they'll not do them, or stall in the hope that I won't be able to do anything by not being here.

Please notice also that although I have not said so I have called to their attention what could happen to them if I were to give that letter to the trade press or a prominet reviewer.

I think they really want HOAX. To protect their crap, in a sense defend it. I think that if I am correct, they'll get a bit more honest. Or should I say less dishonest?

Have you also wondered why when Gallen could have have had NEVER AGAIN! as the first of the anniversary books he gave that no thought? It is possible that those living with book publishing regard catalogue listing as the most important consideration. On this subject that is not true and never has been. On current political controversies I doubt it has been true. Or did you think that perhaps this was to protect the large investment C & G has in Livingstone's sick atrocity?

Can you see now what could have been awaiting Posner's dishonesty, with NEVER AGAIN! in the hands of reviewers and reporters and others in the media?

I knew nothing about what that book would be but I knew very well what the commercial publishers would be spewing out. I had every reason to beloeve that it would be the only decent, factual work on the market if rushed when rushing it was no big deal. But it still is not scheduled and I've heard not a word since the editing was corrected-and I've not seen that but I'm not worried about it. No proofs yet for me to go over and no word on when to expect them.

While I am anxious to see NEVER AGAIN! published it is not a simple matter and it is in some respects complicated, as I indicate.

And on the catalogue situation, Graf aims for April with HOAX and no catalogue listing prepub for it.

I had no idea that C & G are so dishonest although I knew they would publish the most awful stuff for profit. I'll not be able to cope with their dishonesty if I give in now. I can't prevent them from violating the agreeement and there is nothing that as a practical matter I can do if they do that.

So, the only thing I can do is play the only kind of hardball I can play, if at some risk. And they'll understand that I am aware of that risk.

They can read my lack of reference to any other book any way they want. I can't interpret that. I think it is not impossible that they'll do what they should do although their silence does not indicate any such intention.

It is a risk but I think not running that risk can in the end by riskier in a number of ways.

I am aware of the possibility that there is another consideration, that perhaps as I am with the negligent college boy I hired, that I'll be damned if I'll call that lazy boy who has come only when he needed pocket money and ask him to come to do the work he knows waits him. I've already started looking for a replacement. I am not going to have my age, health and need imposed upon.

I have no idea whether C & G can be rational and really wonder whether I'll give that letter to the trade press and make accusations against them. If they pull any dirty stuff on the new books I surely will. And when this is resolved I'll get that in writing.

I faced a situation in which there was no certainty which course would be right and which wrong. I do hope I decided on what is right!

Meanwhile, I'm working away when I can on Livingstone.

And I have a notion that this time his book will not do as well as the earlier ones. Perhaps this is wishful thinking but I think and hope not.

If it is not doing as well as they'd hoped that can cut more than one way, of course.

They may attribute it to the market situation, especially with Posner's in mind. I think it is that books that are not credible will do more poorly, that the merket is there and wants substantial books. I think the potential for HOAX is large.

It is all resolved. Someone finally paid attention to my third letter. The man who phoned me is one I'd had dealings with although we have never met and I like him and find him honest and very bright. I suspect he may be a closet fan. But from our first phone conversation I've had a very high opinion of him. I had hoped he'd edit NEVER AGAIN! The title will be changed, etc. To what was agreed upon

They have "next season" in mind for NEVER AGAIN! I did not ask what that means (wrong underscoring.)

I am sure they did not want two books by one man on one subject for one issue because they do not see the natural promotions, having lived with the stereotypical and made out well doing it.

I find I'm more excited now that before, odd.

When I'm eased off enough I'll return to work I have to do on Hoax, last chapter.

I'll be getting what is retyped and then I'll redo the first two into one.

I may first continue with what I've laid aside on Livingstone so that I can get in my mind what I'll want to say if asked and at the same time get something on paper. I've about 12,000 words and the research for more. I may do that more first while it is still in mind. Too many books all at one time! As of now I plan to include that in Inside the JFK Aassassination Industry. But it will be book length, longer that what I've done on Lifton. I was into Garrison when Posner exploded.

Anyway, unless they take offense at what I wrote and enclose, there now are no immediate problems.

Best,

Harold